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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : The Files

DATE: 28 July 1958

FROM :

SUBJECT: Trip Report - Contract

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1. General - A visit was made to the [redacted] of the [redacted] on 23 July 1958. This report concerns the Energy Source Development task under the subject contract. Present for discussions were:

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[redacted]

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2. Final Report - [redacted] said that present work involved the preparation of the final report. It was noted that this report was assuming large proportions and seemingly consisted of a consolidation of all prior progress reports. [redacted] said this was customary with the Military since they made only a token distribution of progress reports, but asked for as many as 100 copies of a final report. The company was instructed to prepare a final report that broadly reviewed the work undertaken but did not duplicate the detailed data already contained in progress reports. The report should also factually summarize the final results and itemize the conclusions reached.

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3. New Task - A new task order was to have been assigned the [redacted] for the development of a lead-telluride/zinc antimonide thermoelectric generator in late May. Upon inquiry into progress, [redacted] advised that the work had not been assigned by their Government Contract Office. An investigation indicated that a paper slow-down occurred due to heavy work loads in the Contract Branch, OL, and [redacted] contract office, plus a legal question regarding progress reports. The task should now start within a few days.

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4. [redacted] Generator - [redacted] advised that the engineering model of the [redacted] Battery Charger failed after 600 hours of operation. The company intentionally overheated the cold junction by not adding water. The hot junctions are insulated from the pan with mica while epoxy paint is used as the insulating medium for the cold junction. It might therefore be assumed that the thin coating of epoxy broke down. This will be verified soon.

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5. Classification of Reports - Work on the [redacted] Battery Charger has advanced to a point where operational use is suggested in the progress reports. The contractor was instructed to classify future reports SECRET.

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6. Pill Activated Batteries - The [redacted] [redacted], was to provide a sample "Carlson" battery. [redacted] said that the laboratory had run out of funds and needed an additional \$500.00 to complete the work. He added that the study had been completed and that a full report would be contained in the final report.

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7. Water Activated Batteries - [redacted] also reported that work on the water activated silver chloride-magnesium battery had ceased due to the lack of funding. It is suggested that the company's final report be reviewed before considering new work on water and chemical pill activated cells.

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8. Current Work - With respect to the new thermocouple work, [redacted] said that the coefficient of thermal expansion of lead telluride was greater than that of zinc antimonide and could increase the bonding problem.

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